Dear Mary, 9/3/72

When Lil falls ~~xxxxxx~~ asleep in the middle of the day sitting on the sofa and I know I can tell when only the worst headaches beset her, I also know that she did not spend the night in sleep and I find it difficult to do the work I should and want to. One thing to which she has grown accistomed is the noise of my typing. That will not awaken her.

From the time Howard wwote me that you had forwarded Gary's letter than I had sent you, all of you have been on my mind. I tell myself you have more than enough to keep you busy and you don't have time to write, and that there is nothing agreeable about which to write, but I am still concerned about your silence. I do hope things are not, at least, worse than the bad of the time I last heard from you.

I guess we share bad situations. Yours, of course, is much worse because it involves health in the most serious way. Our own is so bad I had to apply for public assistance for the first time in our lives for health problems, depite our paying more than $850 a year for "complete" health "insurance". I'd prefer that you make no mention of this. We were rejected for a strange reason and I am appealing it not for us but because of the zany precedent which may hurt older and less articulate people more than us.

Our property at Hyattastown is potentially valuable. Unlike where we live, it is unmortgaged. But the house is not completely finished. I let a needy but large family live there in return for paying me no more than the cost of taxes and insurance and to keep the place clean. They have done none of these things and a little more than a year ago, because as can happen, a child was unsupervised. there was a fire. The insurance company tried to defraud me. I kept them from getting away with it, so they cancelled the insurance and paid less than half of the fire marshall's estimate of the damage. The tenant, who has not paid the $10 a week for the home and 14 acres for three years come Thanksgiving, agreed to make the repairs. When we got the settlement from the insurance company we used it for the bank, taxes, etc. Otherwise I'd have had to borrow privately or be forecalosed. So, public authority has interpreted this as "income" and ruled us ineligibile for help! Meanwhile, the tenant has not made the repairs and the insurance has been cancelled. I mean by more than the original insurer. Nobody else will, seemingly, insure, until all the repairs are made. Not even with a waiver on the damaged parts. The house is structurally sound.

Coinciding with this has been a problem like the one you faced with your boys, only it was not our boy but a nephew and we bagan without your resources and his mother is living day-to-day and trying to pay off the debts of a two-year terminal illness of her ~~xx~~ husband. She has a fair job, but the debts are great and the 250 boy has emotional problems that lead him into trouble. I have no authority over him, which makes coping with him more difficult. Keeping him out of jail where the sentence could have been up to 25 years at trial took much of Friday, from before three until after 10:30. Trying to lay him out so I could make another effort at straightening him out could from midday yesterday until bed-time. I suspect this is the immediate cause of Lil's distress. It is her sister.

So, aside from the problems of our own lives, which are more serious than any who know us have any way of knowing, we have this new one, and it has limited my, may I call it "productivity"? I haven't kept you up to date on what I've been trying because of your personal situation. And I've not been able to do any writing.

There is no need to comment on the Gary matteror anything related to it. If you remember other things I had forced out and showed you when you were here (and I let him have copies of them, too, in confidence), you can better understand his letter to the Archives. He was using a list he could have gotten on his own but didn, having accepted it from me in confidence, and then wrote to be sure he stole only that which he wanted-for nothing because I had told Cyril of it. I'd never have expected it. The holiness of the note he appended to one carbon of the many I presume he sent of the letter to me is nauseating and makes me think he needs more theraphy. It is unlike what I regard still as the real Gary. I have been getting reports of the wholesale circulation of such lettees but as you know I have not been engaged in such futilities. In fact, the little I have sent you is more than I have sent any but one, and that one has been directly involved...This also bears heavily upon Lil. She was no less fond of Gary than you. Jerry had become a nuisance, but not Gary.

By now you have at least a glimmer of the fiasco of the Wecht stupidities. And the not only predictable but predicted line they would take and how they would be treated. Worse may impend. I don't know what you have seen or has been sent you. It was handled

as I had forecast, including to Graham more than eight months before he did it. I had exaggerated Cyril's professionalism only, so I do not anticipate further immediate harm, unless his crazy requests for the irrelevant are honored, in which event it will be still more seeming confirmation of the Report, or unless Nichols is now given access. He is a real nut but if he is more professional than Cyril was the damage can be greater.

There has been silence from each and every one who took the unthinking position. none had yet responded, after some weeks, to my last communications, in each case, as with Gary's, in response to theirs. I expect nothing from any now and dont really care any more. It is enough that they have joined in Cyril's making Oswald an assassin, but only one of them, and his widely-publicized comment that this rare and precious film confirms the official fiction (which it can't, as you know if you have read the latest part of PM). With such friends and "experts" who needs enemies?

The one for whom I feel sorriest is Sylvia, who must be overloaded with so many problems now. I'd hope for one of those goood-for-the-sould things from her simple for this reason, no other. I have written her a very mild thing but I've been afraid to send it, fearing that the envelope alone might sicken her.

Lil has roused and I'd best knock this off before she makes inquiry.

In retrospect, I hope you can understand that there was neither chance for profit nor any self-seeking in my efforts (in which you alone sought to help, buytthe way) to get at least some copies of PM out.

Don't bother answering unless there is some imporvement in your situations. I know you don't have time. Or perhaps the disposition with all t at weights on you. I have made a separate file on this mess but too late to onclude all of it. Perhaps I'll remember where I put the earlier part and will refile it. Anyway, it will all be available to you later if you don't get any of it and want it. The various papers which used the Times story did not in all cases use all of it, so I don\t know what appeared there.

The Watergate thing gets more fascinating all the time, as does its not accidental press mishandling and underplaying. If in that stuffed House That Buck Built you have anything on any of these cats, especially Hunt, who I'm inclined to think is also Frank Bender, I'd be interested. There is a prima facie case that in one of his double lives he killed a deal - had set in 1965. He was connected with the literary agency then "handling" WHITEWASH and I had a magazine deal arranged.

Incredible, huh?

Hope there have been some improvements with all of you.

Best,